
By: **Senators Frosh, Hollinger, Pinsky, and Ruben**
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating
4 Council; providing for the purpose of the Council; providing for the composition
5 of the Council and the appointment, compensation, and terms of Council
6 members; requiring the Department of Human Resources to provide certain
7 staff support to the Council; requiring the Council to gather certain information
8 from caregivers through certain methods; requiring the Council to develop and
9 distribute a handbook of certain caregiver services; requiring the Council to
10 review certain caregiver support programs; requiring the Council to develop a
11 model caregiver support program; requiring the Council to coordinate activities
12 of certain caregiver services; requiring the Council to conduct certain research;
13 requiring the Council to report to the General Assembly and the Governor on or
14 before a certain date; and generally relating to the Maryland Caregivers
15 Support Coordinating Council.

16 BY adding to
17 Article 88A - Department of Human Resources
18 Section 129A
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

21 Preamble

22 WHEREAS, Respite is the occasional, short-term, temporary relief or rest for
23 family caregivers who provide care for children or adults with developmental
24 disabilities, funtional disabilities, challenging behaviors, or age-related disorders and
25 diseases; and

26 WHEREAS, Supporting the efforts of families and caregivers to care for
27 individuals with special needs at home is efficient, cost effective, and humane; and

28 WHEREAS, Families receiving occasional caregiver support services are less
29 likely to request institutional care at public expense for an individual with special
30 needs; and

1 WHEREAS, Caregiver support services reduce family and caregiver stress,
2 enhance family and caregiver coping ability, and strengthen family ability to meet the
3 challenging demands of caring for individuals with special needs; and

4 WHEREAS, Caregiver support services reduce the risk of abuse and neglect of
5 children, senior citizens, and other vulnerable groups; and

6 WHEREAS, Coordinated, noncategorical caregiver support services must be
7 available locally to provide reliable short-term relief when it is needed by families
8 and caregivers regardless of where they live in Maryland; now, therefore,

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

11 **Article 88A - Department of Human Resources**

12 129A.

13 (A) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND CAREGIVERS SUPPORT COORDINATING
14 COUNCIL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

15 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL IS TO COORDINATE STATEWIDE
16 PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FAMILY CAREGIVER
17 SUPPORT SERVICES.

18 (B) (1) THE COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS,
19 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

20 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
21 RESOURCES;

22 (II) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
23 HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE;

24 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING;

25 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR
26 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES;

27 (V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND RESPITE CARE
28 COALITION;

29 (VI) TWO CONSUMERS OF RESPITE SERVICES;

30 (VII) THREE FAMILY CAREGIVERS; AND

31 (VIII) THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE
32 OR HAVE INTEREST OR EXPERTISE IN RESPITE SERVICES.

1 (2) IN APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNOR, TO
2 THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, SHALL CONSIDER GROUPS REPRESENTING INDIVIDUALS
3 WITH:

4 (I) ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS;

5 (II) DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES;

6 (III) PHYSICAL DISABILITIES;

7 (IV) CHRONIC ILLNESSES;

8 (V) MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS THAT REQUIRE
9 SUPERVISION; AND

10 (VI) VULNERABILITY TO ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

11 (3) A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL SHALL SERVE A 3-YEAR TERM AND MAY
12 BE REAPPOINTED.

13 (4) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT A CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
14 FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS.

15 (5) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF
16 SUPPORT TO THE COUNCIL, INCLUDING AN INDIVIDUAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO
17 SERVE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL.

18 (6) MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL SERVE WITHOUT
19 COMPENSATION EXCEPT THAT THE MEMBERS MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES
20 UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE
21 BUDGET.

22 (C) THE COUNCIL SHALL:

23 (1) SOLICIT AND GATHER CONCERNS OF CAREGIVERS BY CONDUCTING
24 SURVEYS, HOLDING PUBLIC HEARINGS, ESTABLISHING A TELEPHONE HOTLINE FOR
25 PUBLIC ACCESS, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE MEANS;

26 (2) DEVELOP AND DISTRIBUTE TO INTERESTED PARTIES A HANDBOOK
27 OF CURRENT RESPITE AND OTHER FAMILY CAREGIVER SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE
28 STATE;

29 (3) REVIEW SUCCESSFUL RESPITE CARE PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES;

30 (4) DEVELOP A MODEL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM THAT
31 INCORPORATES BEST PRACTICES FROM EXISTING PROGRAMS IN THE STATE AND IN
32 OTHER STATES;

33 (5) COORDINATE ACTIVITIES OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED FAMILY
34 CAREGIVER SUPPORT SERVICES AMONG THE STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCIES;

1 (6) RESEARCH AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES AND EXPLORE
2 POSSIBILITIES FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS; AND

3 (7) IDENTIFY UNMET NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

4 (D) THE COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO §
5 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AN
6 ANNUAL REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1,
8 2002, the Council shall submit a report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the
9 State Government Article, to the General Assembly with a plan of action for family
10 caregiver support services.

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 July 1, 2001.